

Hypocrisy is looming large when a broadcasting corporation can refuse to air a program like Ted Koppel's "Nightline" citing it as politically motivated and then to not classify the scheduled film "Stolen Honor" as political surely violates the equal time clause that governs election-oriented programming.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The intent to air "Stolen Honor" without offering an opposing viewpoint such as the film "Going Upriver" is a blatant attempt to promote the discredited propaganda put forth by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. It is a journalistic outrage to allow the airing of an hour-long or more anti-John Kerry film. This is not news and is an obvious ploy to bypass any ruling by the FCC so late in the race. Please uphold the idea that ownership matters and should be held accountable for trying to influence the vote in such a shameless manner. Thank you.